

today, the last act of the year, bipartisan act, keeping the District open, allowing those on welfare to get their checks, allowing veterans to get their checks, that that will be the first, the first indication that it is possible to get bipartisanship, and we start on small matters.

Then surely on large matters where we are very close, like the balanced budget in 7 years, we can do what needs to be done without drawing our swords on one another. We have drawn much blood, figuratively speaking, in this Chamber.

□ 1545

I think in so doing, we may have paved the way for a third party to come down this aisle. We have got to restore confidence in this body. I hope the last vote of the year does that.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send a message to the people in my district in California. Over the past few days, a lot of people in my district are calling me and asking me what is going on here, why the Government has to shut down? I represent the 41st District in California, about 40 miles east of Los Angeles, and about 3,000 miles from Washington, DC. My district is a typical suburban middle-class district in sunny, southern California.

These folks are hard working people who spend most of their time working and raising their families. As a result, they are not familiar with all the political games we are playing in Washington, DC. They told me to go ahead and shut down the Government so we can save money, so we can balance the budget. The fact is, there is no financial savings. All the Federal employees still get paychecks.

They also are wondering why we have so many nonessential employees in our Government anyway. I do not know how to answer that. But let me tell you, I feel sorry for the Federal employees furloughed. They have been treated like pawns in a chess game. They have been sent home, being called nonessential, not once, but twice. I bet you their emotional scars are really deep. They are really emotional victims.

But there are some other victims, too. The folks from California come all the way out to Washington, DC, spending their savings to see the Washington Monument, which is closed. It is not that easy planning a trip to Washington, DC. It is expensive. They are truly victims, financial and emotional.

How about the small businesses that depend on tourism, all the small shops, motels, coffee shops. They have to lay off their employees. They do not get paid. How about them?

How about some other private contractors who depend on Government contracts? They have got to stop. They have to let their employees go home, without pay.

How about those folks? They are really the true victims, emotionally and financially. Do they complain? No. They are afraid to complain because they may lose the contract from the Government. I know it, because I was one of those silent victims myself in the past. These are the ones that are the forgotten victims during this holiday season.

Let us take a look at whose fault is this. People are saying it is the Congress' fault, you are the ones that did it. Some are saying it is Mr. Clinton.

Let us take a look at it. I will ask the people in California to make their own judgment. Government does not have to be shut down. The Congress and Senate submit the budget to Mr. Clinton. He vetoed it, three times. Interior, he vetoed. VA-HUD, Commerce, Justice, State, et cetera. If he did not veto it, but went ahead and accepted the budget and worked out the details later, it would have been all right. He actually vetoed. That is why we have to have a Government shutdown. Or he could accept this budget proposal, which is nothing but a balancing of the budget within 7 years using Congressional Budget Office projections.

Back in February, he submitted, which is \$276 billion off; resubmitted, June, \$210 billion off, rejected; third time in December, only a few weeks ago, \$115 billion off, rejected; last Friday he submitted, \$87 billion off. Getting closer. By that time Congress took action and Congress rejected his proposal unanimously.

Mr. Clinton, try one more time. We are going to get there, \$87 billion, that is all we are talking about. Just one more time and we will get there. Then we can bring all these people happiness in the holy season.

Let me tell you, Congress does not have any power to send the troops to Bosnia. We passed a resolution three times and sent it to Mr. Clinton not to send troops. He did it. Yes, he has the power. Congress does not. Of course, we have financial control. Somebody said it is Congress' fault. I will tell you. I would like to ask the people in my district in southern California who are listening to my presentation today, make your own judgment. Really, whose fault is this?

Mr. Speaker, thank you, God bless all, and God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has finally headed home, not just for the holidays, but for the rest of this session. We have already apparently taken our last vote. This may be one of the last, if not the last speech on this floor for this session of Congress, and when history records this session of Congress, they will record it as being the least productive and the most destructive session of Congress in U.S. history.

By the end of the fiscal year, we had passed the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Unfunded Mandates Act, and no appropriations bill. After wrangling for 9 full months, after being given the President's budget, only 1 of 13 appropriations bills had actually gotten to the President's desk, and that was the legislative branch. And thank God the President vetoed it.

The last thing we would have wanted as a Congress is to have our salaries and our organization funded and none of the rest of the Government. We were lucky that he vetoed the legislative branch. But that meant there were no appropriation bills and we were dependent upon a continuing resolution.

Now, what we have done is to go home for the holidays while Federal employees are locked out of their jobs and the American public is locked out of their Government.

Each of the most compelling cases that we have brought up have apparently been dealt with. We brought it to the floor that 3.3 million American veterans would not get their benefits, so there was a reaction and we got a bill to take care of them. I hope that it will go through. I have no confidence at this point. It has not been passed by the Senate, as far as I understand. Those checks will be delayed anyway.

We brought up the fact that 13 million welfare recipients have to have their checks processed by December 26. We are planning on being in recess, home with our families, but denying 13 million welfare recipients, most of whom have to have their check just to survive. The check has to pay for their rent. Without that check, they would not even have food to put on their